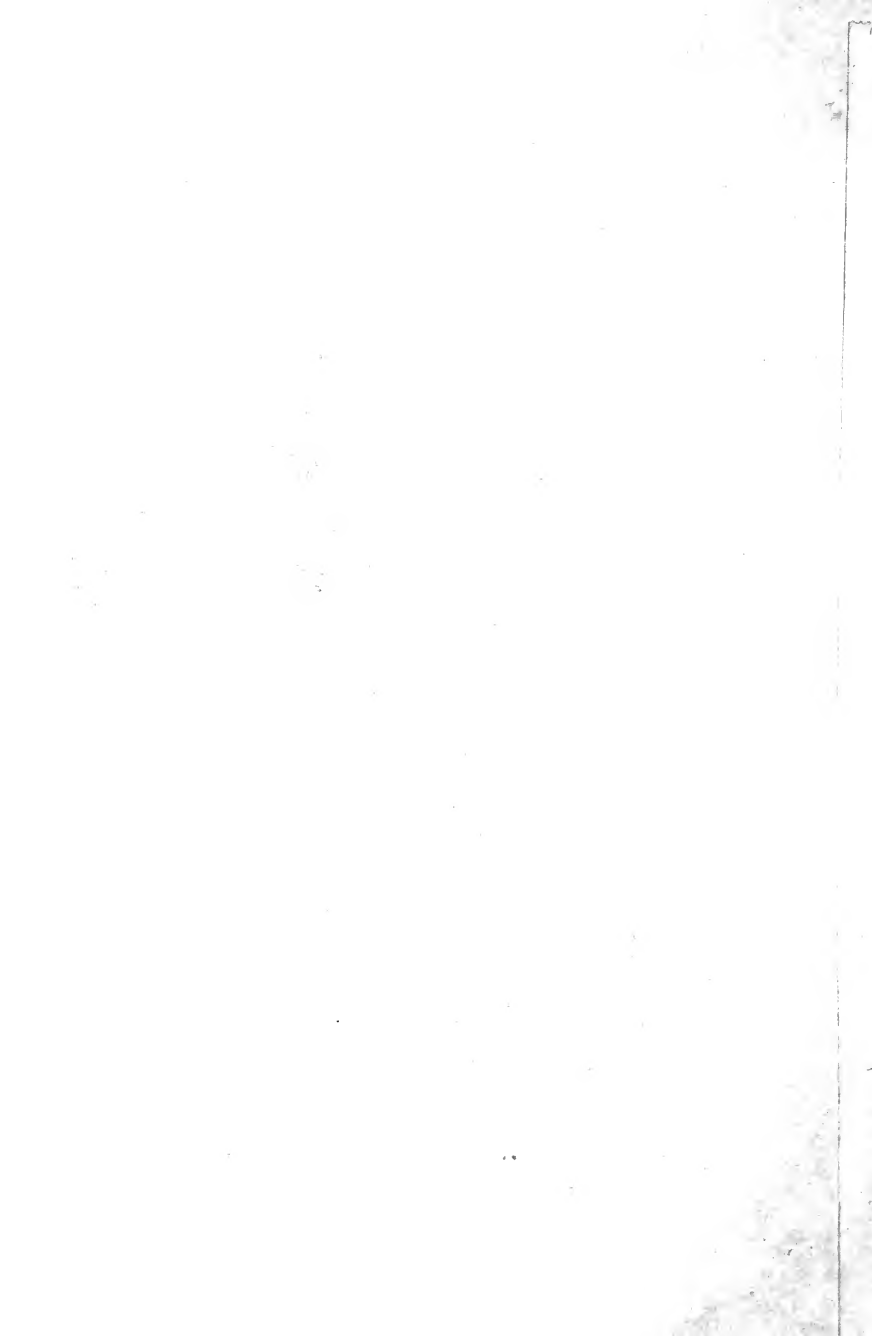


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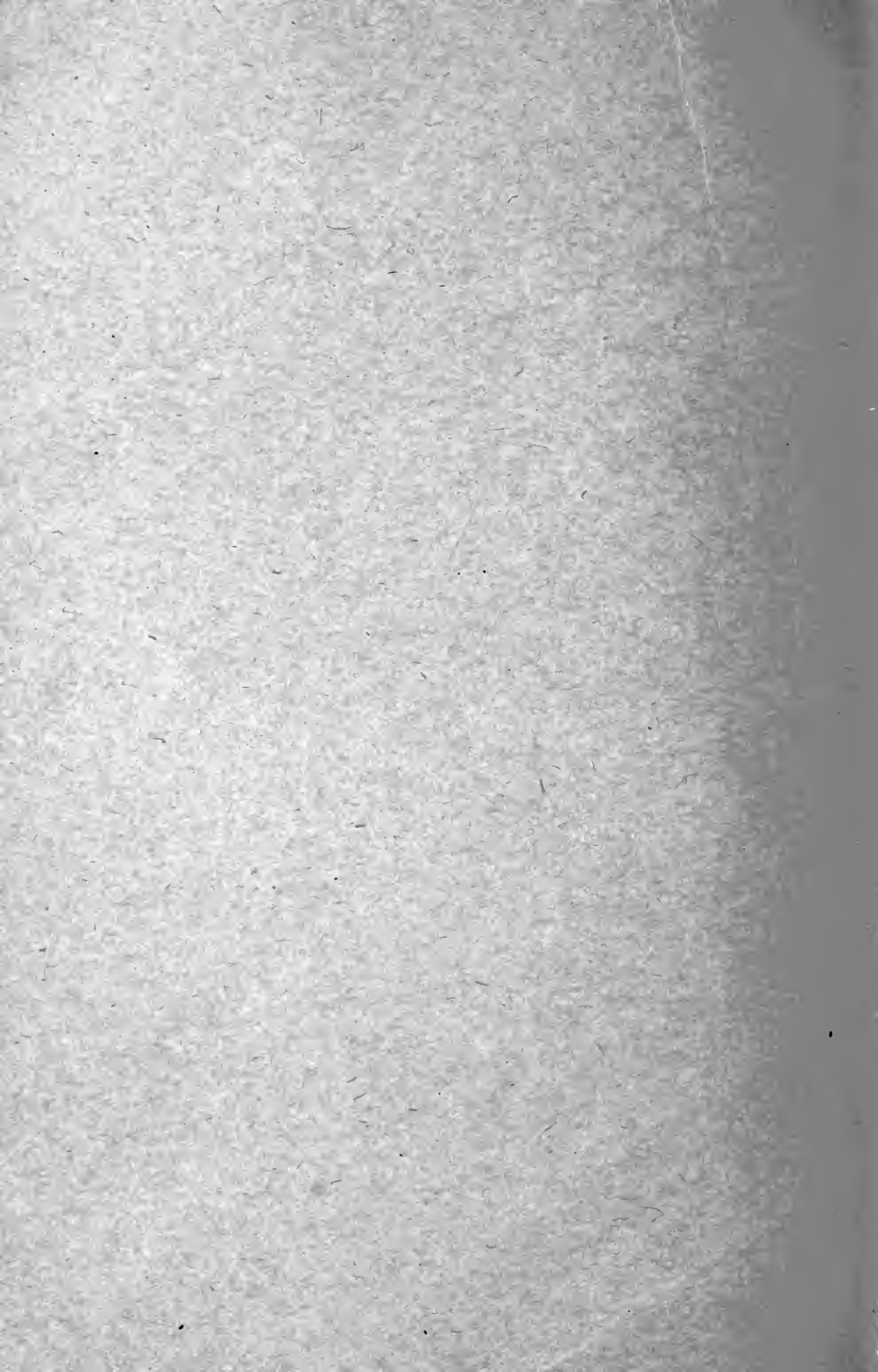
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FIRST CHAPTER
OF
GARDEN NOTES
AND
COMPLETE LIST
OF
PEONIES FOR SALE
IN 1920



LEE R. BONNEWITZ
VAN WERT, OHIO



PEONIES

Price List of Rare Varieties

Issued by

Lee R. Bonnewitz

Van Wert, Ohio

JUNE 28, 1920

I am a Dry Goods merchant and senior member of "THE BONNEWITZ CO." and my life work has been the building up of a good retail business in our town of 8,000 population.

I am still in the Dry Goods Store or rather in the Department Store, for our business has grown very satisfactorily, and successful Dry Goods Stores naturally grow into Department Stores. Now while the management of a Dry Goods Store has been my business, Peonies have been my hobby, and during the past fifteen years I have built up a Peony collection of over seven hundred varieties, among them the very finest varieties in all the world.

My first purchase was made at the suggestion of my wife, to whom I must give all the credit for my interest in flowers, and who has been a great help to me in studying the hundreds of varieties and in making our displays at all the National Peony Shows. That first purchase—what an important event it was! And how long it took Mrs. Bonnewitz to make up my mind to spend as much as Ten Dollars on such foolish things as flowers!

But at last she had me place my name on the dotted line, and here is the order I signed:

13	Pink	Peonies @ 25c
13	Red	Peonies @ 25c
14	White	Peonies @ 25c
<hr/>		
40		Peonies @ 25c = \$10.00

The second June following, when our peonies were at their best, we were very proud of our big collection. But there was one fly in the ointment, for a neighbor who had only a half dozen plants had one peony for which she had paid fifty cents, and we could plainly see that her fifty-cent one was much better than any of our twenty-five-cent ones.

It was not such hard work, and it did not take Mrs. Bonnewitz as long to persuade me to order some of the fifty-cent ones, for of course we wanted to have just as fine peonies as anybody.

Two surprises awaited us the next year, for in another neighbor's garden we found two most exquisite peonies, MADAME DE VERNEVILLE and DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS. The first surprise was that the really fine peonies have names of their own, and the second surprise was that some peonies cost as much as a dollar.

That was our first introduction to the named varieties, and that year we saw our first peony catalog and purchased ten of the named varieties, being very careful to select those with the most beautiful and aristocratic names.

The next June was an eventful one in our peony experience, for then it was we saw our first M. JULES ELIE, and I can no more tell you the thoughts which went surging through my mind as I gazed upon that wonderful bloom than you, if you are a peony enthusiast, can tell me your sensations when you first beheld it. It remains today as one of the really great peonies of the world.

Two years later I was invited to visit a garden to see a new peony, a peony which a lady in Indiana had grown from a seed, and the memory of the thrill I received when I saw my first JUBILEE will remain with me as long as I live. I threw my hat on the ground, and instantly offered the owner Ten Dollars (an unheard-of price at that time) for it, but it was not for sale and money would not buy it. It took

me two years to get my first JUBILEE and this is how I did it: I wrote to Mr. Shaylor and asked him for a list of the peonies which he considered the best in the world. Here is the list he sent me, and it is a mighty good list today:

ALMA, LE JOUR, KELWAY'S GLORIOUS,
PHILIPPE RIVOIRE, FRANCES SHAYLOR,
WILLIAM F. TURNER, and KELWAY'S
EXQUISITE.

I immediately ordered one each of these peonies from Mr. Shaylor and when they arrived I gave a division from each one of them to the owner of JUBILEE, and in return I received a JUBILEE, to be my very own. It has been one of the great pleasures of my life to take JUBILEE with me to the National Shows of THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, and hear the expressions of surprise, pleasure, wonder and delight from the visitors at the show who see my peony for the first time.

I should not say "my" Peony, for it is Mrs. Pleas's peony, for she developed it from the seed, and yet I take no offense when I am spoken of as the JUBILEE man, and I hear that expression quite often.

Now being the owner of what I considered the best peony in the world, I naturally wished to have a collection of all the other good varieties, and for years I have imported from DESSERT, MILLET, RIVOIRE, CROUX, RIVIERE and LEMOINE in France, and from BARR, and KELWAY in England, so that I have all the good foreign varieties in my garden.

I have been glad to purchase from SHAYLOR, BRAND, ROSENFELD and THURLOWS here in the United States, and I am glad to say these gentlemen have introduced as fine peonies as ever came across the ocean. I am trying to buy every new one as fast as they are put on the market, and in this manner keep my collection up to date. I now have in my exhibition garden over seven hundred varieties of Peonies, and in the blooming season I have the names of each one prominently displayed, so it is easy for visitors to study the different varieties.

I have over One Thousand plants ready to sell, every one of which I have planted, staked and labeled myself, for although I hire gardeners to cultivate my peonies, I allow

no one to plant, divide or stake, label and dig them, for it is too great a responsibility to allow anyone else to assume. I want to get the reputation of having every peony true to name, and so I do the work myself, knowing that there is a demand at a fair price for the best peonies true to name.

The outdoor work in my peony field is helping me to recover from a nervous breakdown which I experienced 12 years ago. In July or August I expect to publish a complete price list of all the peonies I am willing to sell, but at this time I include only a list of my very finest and best varieties, the ones of which I am, personally, very proud, and which I believe all peony enthusiasts would like to have growing in their gardens.

If you order any of them, and wish me to prepay the charges, you may add 25c to the price of each root and in addition to prepaying the express or postal charges I will have the delivery insured.

Here is my list:

JUBILEE	\$ 25.00
LE CYGNE	25.00
MARY WOODBERRY SHAYLOR.....	50.00
KELWAY'S GLORIOUS	40.00
THERESE	10.00
GEORGIANA SHAYLOR	10.00
PHYLLIS KELWAY	10.00
EXQUISITE	15.00
PRIMEVERE	5.00
SOLANGE	10.00
ELWOOD PLEAS	15.00
MRS. EDWARD HARDING (All Sold).....	100.00
PHILIPPE RIVOIRE (All Sold).....	20.00
PRESIDENT WILSON (All Sold).....	25.00
STANDARD BEARER (All Sold).....	25.00
M. MARTIN CAHUZAC	5.00
KARL ROSENFELD	5.00
FRANCES WILLARD	10.00
GINETTE	15.00
MARTHA BULLOCH	25.00

Every one of the above belong in my list of the world's best peonies, and I do not think that any of them will go into the discard during your lifetime or mine.

I hope that you notice some of the very, very best can now be sold for five dollars, and if we live long enough we will no doubt see many of the others at a lower price, but we cannot tell how soon.

A few varieties like Therese, Elwood Pleas and M. Martin Cahuzac are selling at much higher prices than 5 years ago. The peonies in the following list rank right along with those already given, and some authorities would rank some of these higher than any in my first list:

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING	\$ 25.00
FRANCES SHAYLOR	20.00
AVIATEUR REYMOND	15.00
LAURA DESSERT	25.00
CHERRY HILL	25.00
BRAND'S MAGNIFICENT	25.00
WALTER FAXON	15.00
PRIDE OF ESSEX	15.00
RAOUL DESSERT	15.00
VICTOIRE DE LA MARNE.....	15.00
MARY BRAND	15.00
NYMPHAEA	15.00
MARGARET GAUDICHAU	15.00

I forgot to tell you that scarcity has a great deal to do with some prices being higher than others. For instance:

PRIMEVERE is just as good a peony as LAURA DESSERT. In fact I think PRIMEVERE is a little the better, but there is a big supply of the one and a small supply of the other, so LAURA sells at \$25.00 and you can buy PRIMEVERE at \$5.00.

LONGFELLOW is, I believe, the best pure red peony in the world, yet because it has been on the market several years, it can be bought for \$10.00, while PHILIPPE RIVOIRE, a new red one from France, sells for twice as much.

The same thing is true of many others, and you must not be guided solely by price in selecting your fine varieties. The list which follows contains some varieties with which

I expect to capture the two most coveted prizes at our National Shows, the prizes which have made JUBILEE and LE CYGNE famous.

Here is the list:

BERTRADE	\$ 5.00
MILTON HILL	5.00
SUZETTE	10.00
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.....	10.00
RICHARD CARVEL	5.00
OTHELLO (Lemoine)	10.00
KNIGHT OF THE THISTLE.....	5.00
NELLIE.....	10.00
PRIDE OF LANGPORT.....	10.00
EVANGELINE.....	10.00
BELISAIRE	5.00
ROSA BONHEUR	10.00
MARQUIS C. LAGERGREN.....	5.00
ESTAFETTE	10.00
MIGNON	10.00
MADAME MANCHET.....	5.00
MADAME D'TREYERAN	5.00
MONT BLANC	10.00
MAUD L. RICHARDSON.....	5.00
ENCHANTRESS	10.00
WILLIAM F. TURNER.....	5.00
ALMA.....	5.00
JAMES KELWAY	5.00
EUGENE VERDIER	5.00
GALATHEE	10.00
SOUVENIR DE LOUIS BIGOT.....	5.00
LOVELINESS	15.00
LAMARTINE (Lemoine)	15.00
ETTA	5.00
E. G. HILL.....	5.00
LORA DEXHEIMER	5.00
SUPREME	5.00
PHOEBE CAREY	10.00
ENCHANTMENT	5.00
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE	5.00
LONGFELLOW	10.00
JUDGE BERRY	10.00

EVENING GLOW	10.00
R. P. WHITFIELD	5.00
SAMUEL HENSHAW	5.00
WELCOME GUEST	5.00
JEANNE GAUDICHAU	10.00
CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT.....	10.00

Last September and October I made divisions of every plant here listed, and these divisions will be a year old when they are sent to you. When you receive them you can, if you wish, make at least three divisions of every plant I send out. In some communities two or three peony enthusiasts join together and order the extremely scarce varieties, and then make small divisions so that their plants cost them only one-half or one-third as much. Every plant I send out can be cut into at least THREE DIVISIONS with one good EYE each. Of three or four varieties like PRESIDENT WILSON, NYMPHAEA and BRAND'S MAGNIFICENT I have only two plants each for sale. Of the others I can spare six or more roots, but until after September 1st I will not accept an order from any one person for more than one root of any one variety.

I am anxious to have these fine varieties growing in as many gardens as possible all over the United States. If you wish more than one of any variety, I will accept orders for what I can spare after the date mentioned above.

In addition to the list here given, I have over six hundred more varieties, some of which rank as high as any in this list, but I do not want to advertise them until they have shown to my satisfaction that they deserve their reputation.

In case you decide to send an order, please include your check or draft, as I have no bookkeeper and do not intend to open any accounts this first year.

If a check or draft is sent with your order, I will at once go to the field and attach a label with your name written upon it, to the best plant of the variety you order, and then let the plant remain in its place until the shipping season. If no money is sent, I will hold your order until the shipping season, and when the money is sent, I will select the best plants I have for you at that time.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ,

Van Wert, Ohio.

June 28, 1920.

STANDARD VARIETIES OF PEONIES



August 6, 1920

Since publishing my price list of RARE VARIETIES OF PEONIES in June, which was done hurriedly so that the price list could accompany my first "Reading Peony Show" booklet, I have taken a little time to prepare several more lists of peonies which are growing in my garden. Some of these are for sale—in fact wherever a price is given, that variety is for sale, but I do not care to sell more than one plant of any variety to any one person, as I am not trying to sell a great quantity of peonies, but rather to send out to as many individuals as possible, at least a few of the varieties which I think have merit. Every peony I sell has had my own individual attention ever since it has been in my garden, for when it first arrived I planted it with my own hands, staked it and labeled it, and when it grew sufficiently large, I dug it up, and with my own hands divided it and again planted, staked and labeled it, and when it leaves my garden for yours, it will again have my personal attention.

This kind of work is a pleasure to me, as it keeps me out in God's pure air and allows me to enjoy the clouds, the sunshine, the trees, the birds and particularly my peonies, for I enjoy them from the early days in April when they first thrust their heads through the soil, through all the months of Spring, Summer and Autumn, and it is with pleasant recollections that I see my garden covered with a mantle of snow for its Winter protection.

With this explanation you will understand that I am not seeking a volume of Peony business, and that I do not have reduced prices for large quantities of one variety, for if I tried to increase my quantity, I could not give my own personal attention to each variety, or if I tried to do that, I would have to work so hard, and under such pressure that it would take away all the pleasure. And really it is the pleasure that I am after, for the Department Store has for

years furnished my income, and I am depending upon it for my future income.

You will probably notice that some varieties in my price list are quoted at higher prices than in other growers' lists, and this is as it should be, because when grown in quantity, the expense is less for each root, and again if my prices were so low that I received more than my share of orders, I would have to work so hard that I would not have time to enjoy my outdoor life.

With this explanation I will begin with my list of roots which I can furnish at One Dollar each. If you wish me to prepay charges (Parcel Post or Express), you may add 25c to the price of each root and for this amount I will not only prepay charges, but I will have the safe delivery of the shipment insured. I do not ask you to do this, for I believe in most cases it will be cheaper for you to pay express charges upon arrival of plants. Of the following varieties I can in most cases send one year roots, but as I did not get time to make divisions of all my seven hundred varieties, in some instances I may send large divisions.

PEONIES AT ONE DOLLAR EACH

ALICE DE JULVECOURT
BEAUTE FRANCAISE
BOADICEA
CANDIDISSIMA
DR. BRETONNEAU (Verdier)
DUCHESS DE NEMOURS (Calot)
HENRI DEMAY
JEANNE D'ARC
LA TULIPE
MADAME BREON
MADAME LEBON

PEONIES AT TWO DOLLARS EACH

AKSARBEN
ALBERT CROUSSE
ATROSANGUINEA
AVALANCHE
BRIDESMAID (Kelway)

BUNCH OF PERFUME
COURONNE D'OR
CHARLES VERDIER
DE CANDOLLE
DORCHESTER
EMILIE HOSTE
FESTIVA MAXIMA
FLAMBEAU
GERMAINE BIGOT
LA TENDRESSE
LA TULIPE
LIVINGSTONE
MADAME BUCQUET
MADAME CHAUMY
MADAME CROUSSE
MADAME CAMILLE BANCEL
MADAME DE GALHOU
MADAME DE VATRY
MADAME DE VERNEVILLE
MADAME FOREL
MADAME GEISSLER
MADEMOISELLE ROUSSEAU
MARGUERITE GERARD
OCTAVIE DEMAY
SOUVENIR DE L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE
TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPOSITION DE LILLE
VENUS

PEONIES AT THREE DOLLARS EACH

AURORE
BARONESS SCHROEDER
BEAUTY'S MASK
CLAIRE DUBOIS
EUGENIE VERDIER
EUGENE BIGOT
GLOIRE DE CHARLES GOMBAULT
GRANDIFLORA (Richardson)
LAMARTINE (Calot)
LADY EMILY

LA ROSIERE
 LADY BERESFORD
 MADAME AUGUSTE DESSERT
 MADAME EMILE GALLE
 MADAME EMILE LEMOINE
 MARIE DEROUX
 MARIE CROUSSE
 MARIE JACQUIN
 MARIE HOUILLON
 MIDNIGHT (Brand)
 MODELE DE PERFECTION
 MONSIEUR DUPONT
 MONSIEUR JULES ELIE
 PETITE RENEE
 PIERRE DUCHARTRE
 SARAH BERNHARDT
 SIMONNE CHEVALIER
 SULLY PRUDHOMME
 VIRGINIE

JAPANESE VARIETIES

ALMA	4	5.00
AKALU		5.00
CLAIRETTE		5.00
ISANI GIDUI		5.00
KAMENO-KEROGOMA		5.00
KINOKOMO		5.00
KUMAGOE		5.00
SEIRIU SOMAE		5.00
TORPILLEUR		3.00
KNIGHT OF THE THISTLE.....		5.00
MAGNIFICENCE (Kelway)		5.00
NOONDAY		5.00
RARE BROCADE		3.00

SINGLE PEONIES

LE JOUR	3.00
CAMILLE	2.00
LA FIANCEE	5.00
LUCIENNE	2.00
MARGUERITE DESSERT	5.00

MINERVE	3.00
MISTRAL	2.00
NYMPHE	5.00
OTHELLO	3.00
VELOUTINE	2.00
VESUVE	2.00

Here is a list of Peonies which I imported from France direct from their originator Riviere and I also secured some of the same stock from another grower in France named Rivoire. I am observing them very closely before offering them for sale.

ENTENTE CORDIALE
 MADAME BENOIT RIVIERE
 MADAME EMILE DUPRAZ
 MADAME FRANCOIS TOSCANELLI
 MADEMOISELLE JEANNE RIVIERE
 POETE F. MISTRAL
 SOUVENIR DE FRANCOIS RUITTON
 SOUVENIR DE GENERAL GALLIENI

I have a nice stock of JEANNOT and ROSETTE, the two new peonies introduced by Dessert in 1918. In my garden ROSETTE blooms early and JEANNOT very, very, very late. I am not offering them for sale, until I have a chance to give you a three-year record of their habit in my garden. Both bloomed for me in 1919 and 1920, and I have hopes that they have prize winning qualities.

In a later publication I may give a complete list of peonies growing in my garden, so that any member of the Peony Society can have the opportunity of asking me to make divisions of varieties which interest him. There are at least four hundred varieties which I do not now intend to divide this year, as I never expect to offer them for sale unless they show very great quality.

However, the publishing of the list may be of benefit to THE PEONY SOCIETY, for some member may ask me to give special attention to some variety which he has reason to believe has certain qualities, in which it excels.

The prices quoted are for this season only.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ,

Aug. 12, 1920.

Van Wert, Ohio

GARDEN NOTES



CHAPTER I.

Every member of the Peony Society is naturally anxious to procure the very best peonies for his own garden, and in order to find out which are the best, he studies the various catalogs, and when he finds a variety which many of the growers list at \$5.00 or more, he has a right to conclude that it must be desirable.

For years I saw the variety MISS SALWAY listed at \$10.00 and in 1915 I purchased a root of it. It has the one good quality of thriftiness and I have enough of it to offer for sale 25 large plants, but I am sure it does not belong in the \$10.00 class, and I am not sure that I care to list it even in my \$1.00 class.

So I will cut it up into small divisions and send these divisions prepaid to members of the Peony Society who are willing to plant them in their gardens and report to the Secretary of the Society their opinion of the quality and desirability of this variety, whenever he sends out his questionnaire.

I would be glad to have each member who receives one of these divisions allow his plant to remain undivided for 4 years, so that he can form an intelligent opinion of it, and if these members allow me to use their names as owners of these plants I may publish the list so that other members of the Society in their vicinity can also have an opportunity to judge of its quality.

However I do not insist upon this publicity unless the members approve of it. My great objection to the variety MISS SALWAY is, that even before it is in full bloom it opens at the center and shows the carpels like the old discarded variety QUEEN VICTORIA.

Another variety of which I have enough to sell 50 plants, is a comparatively new French variety named ODETTE, which I have direct from the originator. I do not think well enough of it to list it even at \$1.00, and in order to find out whether we want to keep its name on our lists or not, I will be glad to send postpaid to each of at

least fifty members of the Peony Society a division of this variety, to be kept undivided for 4 years and reported upon whenever a questionnaire is sent out. All plants which I send out in this manner, become at once the property of the members to whom they are sent, and it would please me if they should develop into plants of which their owners could be proud. I wish I could offer to send out 25 divisions each of BOULE BLANCHE, CARMEN, VOLCAN, BAYADERE and LAURENCE, all of which I imported from Lemoine; but although these varieties have been in my garden 4 years, they have never bloomed, the plants have made very little increase in size, and in most cases the foliage now is only about 4 inches tall. I will be glad to send out free a few divisions of each of these varieties, to some of our members who will take the trouble to plant them and report upon them, just as upon the two varieties which have been so much more prolific.

But there are two sides to this question of discarding varieties, and I have received from one of our Peony Society members, Mrs. F. H. McCullaugh, of Los Gatos, California, a "PLEA FOR A LONGER TRIAL FOR BAYADERE."

I quote from her letter:

"In 1914 I received BAYADERE in a shipment from Mr. Farr. It grew slowly, but better and better, plant looked healthy but no bloom in 1915, 1916 or 1917. In 1918 it formed buds but they blighted. I then wrote to Mr. Farr and in reply he said: 'Lemoine peonies require patience in their owners'.

"The next spring, 1919, BAYADERE gave me 30 superb flowers, and again this year. Pure unspotted creamy white cupped petals around yellow stamens. I think it better form than ALSACE LORRAINE. The flowers of BAYADERE kept in the house for 10 days, and when at last the petals fell, they were still unwithered, showing their original quality and beauty".

T. C. Thurlow's Sons, of West Newbury, Mass., also have written me that they have success with BAYADERE and so in the light of these two good reports, I will await with interest the next published report of the combined votes of the individual members of the Society.

I have written Mrs. McCullaugh that I will be glad to give her a division of JUBILEE for a division of her BAYADERE, and so I hope some time to have in my own garden a plant on which I can make the same favorable report which she made in her letter.

It will please me greatly if some of our members to whom I send divisions of these last 5 varieties, BOULE BLANCHE, VOLCAN, CARMEN, LAURENCE and BAYADERE, have the skill to coax from these, the same kind of bloom they produced, when LEMOINE saw them in his garden.

In June, 1916, I saw in a garden in St. Paul, Minn., a most beautiful large pure white bloom on a very tall thrifty plant, and the owner told me it was LA LORRAINE. It pleased me so much that I told my friends "LA LORRAINE is one of the best peonies in the world," and at every Peony Show I have looked for it, and in every garden I have visited I have asked for it, but I have never seen that same beautiful bloom since. I was so interested in LA LORRAINE that I purchased it from one of the largest growers in the U. S. I imported it from Holland, and in 1916 and again in 1917, I imported it direct from Lemoine, but up till my visit to the Reading show, I saw no bloom from any of my plants; but at the show, in Mr. Boyd's wonderful gold medal collection I found a full rose shape beautiful medium size light pink Peony bearing the name LA LORRAINE. I visited Mr. Boyd's garden and again saw the pink bloom on a medium dwarf plant, and received Mr. Boyd's assurance that LA LORRAINE was pink and dwarf and not tall and white. Leaving Mr. Boyd's garden I came directly home and found in my own garden the LA LORRAINE I imported from Holland blooming just exactly like Mr. Boyd's, but the other 3 purchases of the variety failed to bloom.

I had just about become converted to the pink LA LORRAINE, when I received a letter from a Chicago grower telling me he did not like my knock on LA LORRAINE, and that he had for sale some healthy stock and that it is a splendid white Peony. I will not offer any of my LA LORRAINES for sale until I can find out which is true, pink or white, tall or dwarf.

Let every member of the Society bring his LA LOR-

RAINE blooms to the Boston Show and let us have Secretary Saunders and ex-Secretary Fewkes decide for us which is the true variety.

I believe that every member of the Society will accept the decision of these two experts, and if they know in advance that they are to decide the question, they undoubtedly can get some information from Lemoine himself.

I have a splendid 40-inch tall Peony which has round buds which open out into extra large apple blossom pink blooms and for years I have been sure I owned the genuine LA FRANCE. At the Peony Show I found a smaller pink bloom (of nearly the same shade) which grows on dwarf plants and which develops its beauty through a very pointed bud, and I was assured that the dwarf plant and pointed bud were characteristics of the genuine LA FRANCE.

I will not offer my LA FRANCE for sale until this question is decided, and the members who have not yet purchased LA FRANCE now will have an opportunity to make some investigations before they invest their money. Let us submit this decision also to our two secretaries, Saunders and Fewkes, if they are willing.

I am afraid I will weary you with discussions of poor varieties and disputed names. Let us turn to something more cheerful.

In 1918 I purchased from T. C. Thurlow's Sons a new variety of Peony which they had just named for the most popular man in the whole world at that time, President Wilson. They did not send me the plant till September, 1919, but because they kept me waiting a whole year they sent me an extra large plant. When it arrived I made 4 divisions of it, and every one of them bloomed. It began blooming after I came home from the Peony Show and I am going to give you here the notes I made in my garden concerning it.

June 16—PRESIDENT WILSON blooming today. Fair size, delicate flesh-pink color, splendid quality of petals, as beautiful even as Frances Willard. Pink has not faded at 9:40 a. m.

June 17—A very good late pale pink.

June 20—Splendid quality most delicate shell pink, which does not fade in the sun, good keeping quality, has carmine marking on outer guards.

June 21—Still in bloom, pink has not faded.

June 23—Holds quality in garden excellently, of Milton Hill color and quality, but seems to hold color better than Milton Hill.

June 25—Still retains some of the pink in the garden.

June 26—Last bloom will fall today, but it still retains some of the pink and the petals still show the good quality.

There has probably been more controversy over the peony EUGENE VERDIER than over any other one variety. In order to satisfy myself as to which of the several peonies sold under that name is the true one, I have bought it from 4 American growers, 1 Holland grower, 1 English grower and 2 French growers.

The true EUGENE VERDIER is very sturdy, with a very stiff bloom stalk bearing a pink bloom with a very decided lemon yellow collar. It is a very desirable variety, and it is a great pity that our American growers have become so confused over it.

I am often asked about extremely early varieties and here are the earliest Sinensis or Chinese varieties to bloom in my garden: ZOE VERNIORY, a medium small variety with pink guards and inner petals of light yellow which soon fade. Its one good quality is its earliness, for it was the first Peony in bloom in my garden.

MRS. GWYN LEWIS (Kelway) was the second to bloom and it was only one day later and very much superior to ZOE VERNIORY. It opens pink and fades white, has good size, fairly good quality and a blooming season which lasts a full week. I think it good enough to offer for sale, and I will make some divisions in September and plant them for sale next year.

UMBELLATA ROSEA came next, and on some 4-year-old plants which had been disbudded I found blooms which were so extra good that I cut them for the Reading Show, and placed them in cold storage, but in the excitement of packing my 800 blooms I left these early ones in my basement. They were nearly as large as the later variety EUGENE VERDIER and a quite similar color, without, of course, the lemon-yellow collar. Every garden should have UMBELLATA ROSEA both for cut bloom and for land-

scape effect. I consider it one of the most valuable peonies in existence.

LE CYGNE and JUBILEE are both early peonies, but are not in the extra early class.

In the price list which I am sending out with these notes I have had to withdraw from sale, 4 of the very rare varieties which I offered for sale in my list published July first. It is very probable that about September first, it will be necessary to withdraw many others, and when I send out my notification of varieties sold out, I may include another portion of my garden notes. My notes may not be of value to anyone but myself, but they cover a lot of white paper, for I spent the entire peony season either in my own garden or in some other peony garden, and I enjoyed it just as much as I enjoyed my fishing trips with Mr. Ruff on the St. Lucie down in Florida last February. Peonies in the Summer and fishing in Florida in the Winter make a combination which I think cannot be improved upon.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ,

Van Wert, Ohio.

Aug. 6, 1920.



